

From: Dave Lyon
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:53am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Just to add my two cents on the settlement ideas being discussed: I feel that every "remedy" that has yet been suggested has been not a penalty but at best a delay for Microsoft's monopolistic methods. The whole "give software to schools" thing is ridiculous. Making copies of their own software costs Microsoft maybe a penny per CD and makes a whole new generation of computer users learn things the Microsoft way. If anything this is an added bonus.

The remedy should not so much focus on a payment or compensation of some kind as it should a restraint on Microsoft's business practices. While this case has been going on, Microsoft has released a new Operating System that integrates like no other before it a slew of Microsoft programs like the Internet Explorer browser and the Windows Media Player. In addition, built into the system are hooks that tie into Microsoft's new push called .Net which aims to remake the world wide web in the image of Microsoft. Any remedy should in some way monitor .Net and assure fair business practices. .Net will succeed (if it succeeds) because the whole model is based on the idea that the normal person's operating system is Windows and Microsoft leverages that fact to make it easier for other businesses to implement .Net instead of competing platforms. In the past Microsoft has bundled their own programs. Now they will effectively be bundling the "Microsoft Internet" in the operating system itself. That is wrong and must be dealt with in the settlement.

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Dave Lyon
TeachStream Web Engineer
www.teachstream.com